[illegible] May 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Clemard Joseph CHARLES

1. On [illegible] April 1963 [illegible], [illegible] Section, ACSI, [illegible] to this office that a [illegible] Charles had [illegible] in New York. A [illegible] of Charles, [illegible] Avenue, [illegible], Florida, had [illegible] Charles as a man of great interest to the U.S. Government in view of the events in Haiti. Charles was described as President of the [illegible] Commerciale, Port au Prince, Haiti, who is in [illegible]. Mrs. [illegible] explained that she had [illegible] Col. [illegible] in [illegible] to contact Dryer in order to obtain more background information and an assessment on Charles.

2. On 1 May 63 Mrs. [illegible] advised that Charles was staying at the Park Sheraton Hotel, New York, and that he had telephoned her since her name had been supplied to him by Dryer. Charles considered her to be his point of contact in Washington. According to Mrs. [illegible], Charles had appointments to see Vice President Johnson, Senator Keating, and Congressman [illegible] (Florida). However, Charles was willing to talk to representatives of Mrs. [illegible]'s office. Mrs. [illegible] stated that the Haitian Desk man in ACSI was ready to go to New York to talk to Charles and [illegible] CIA to accompany him. Charles speaks very little English and a [illegible] in French was therefore required for the interview. Mrs. [illegible] stated that she might be able to obtain a French linguist from [illegible] Army, Governor's Island, but he would not be an intelligence officer. It was decided that [illegible], New York Office, who has a knowledge of the French language would accompany the ACSI representative when they come. It was also arranged that [illegible] would meet the ACSI representative (Captain [illegible]) at the Park Sheraton Hotel where Charles was staying.

3. On 3 May 63 Mrs. [illegible] reported that Col. [illegible] had interviewed Mr. Dryer in [illegible]. Dryer had appointed Charles as Director of his bank in Haiti. Charles, according to Dryer, formerly had no political ambitions but in view of the current political situation in Haiti, Charles now thinks that he may some day be president. Dryer described Charles as well-connected, politically and financially, on both sides of the fence in Haiti. He is also a [illegible] friend of [illegible] Duvalier. Dryer had given Charles letters of introduction to Senator Keating and to other officials in Washington. Charles wanted to see President Kennedy and indeed had gone to the White House to arrange an appointment. He was [illegible] by the President's [illegible] secretary and [illegible] to [illegible] with the appointment

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secretary. Through a misunderstanding, however, Charles did not attend the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

4. Charles [illegible], according to [illegible], with a [illegible] geologist [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with Charles [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] trying to arrange a meeting for Charles with Vice President Johnson.

5. On 3 May 63 [illegible] telephoned to advise that he had had a three-hour session the previous day with Charles and that he had obtained both [illegible] [illegible] and views by Charles on what the United States should do in the current [illegible] situation. [illegible] advised that he was transmitting the information to [illegible]. Upon arrival, copies of the telegrams were transmitted to ACSI (Mrs. [illegible]), [illegible] Division, and the Latin American Branch.

6. On 6 May 63 [illegible], [illegible] Branch, advised that WH Division wished to speak to Charles and [illegible] was asked to arrange an appointment. Mrs. [illegible] telephoned at approximately [illegible] to advise that she had just received a telephone call from Mrs. de [illegible]schildt asking assistance in obtaining hotel reservations in Washington. Upon being told that we had no special means of obtaining reservations, Mrs. [illegible] stated that she would check with the State Department Protocol Office to determine which hotels would admit negro guests. Mrs. [illegible] finally made reservations at the Alban Towers. A check with [illegible] revealed that he had arranged for Charles to meet the WH representative in the lobby of the Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C., at 12:00 noon on 7 May. Attempts to reach Mrs. [illegible] that afternoon were unsuccessful. At [illegible], 7 May, a call was made to Mrs. [illegible] to confirm that Charles would be in Washington on that day and that arrangements had been made for a meeting with an Agency representative for 12:00 noon. Mrs. [illegible] reported that both Mrs. de [illegible]schildt and Charles had called her that previous evening to confirm a 12:30 luncheon appointment with her. Mrs. [illegible] was concerned that CIA and Army should not be working at cross purposes. She had received [illegible] from [illegible] and felt that it would not be [illegible] for ACSI to meet Charles at lunch and that it would be [illegible] for her to withdraw from her [illegible] since Army considered her the point of contact with Charles. [illegible] informed WH Division of the conflict and passed on the suggestion that the WH Division representative might meet Charles and Mrs. [illegible] at noon and that Mrs. [illegible] offered to withdraw shortly thereafter. The WH representative declined the offer and suggested that a meeting later in the afternoon be arranged. Mrs. [illegible] believed that due to conflicting instructions, she had been placed in the middle in the situation from which she could not graciously withdraw and requested that someone accompany her.

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7. I met Mrs. [illegible] in the lobby of the [illegible] Hotel shortly before noon, and [illegible] Charles, [illegible], accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. de [illegible]. [illegible] the [illegible] hotel. [illegible] he had been born in [illegible], Russia, [illegible] taken to [illegible] as a small child. [illegible] Poland prior to [illegible] in the [illegible] Army. He also mentioned that he [illegible] in 1957 and while in [illegible] he had met Charles who was visiting [illegible] at the time. He had [illegible] to Charles and was invited to visit Haiti, which [illegible]. He lives in Dallas, Texas. He has a [illegible] in geology and has had some [illegible] experience. Mrs. de Mohrenschildt was born in Peking, China. Her father was Russian and her mother French, and she [illegible] from a [illegible] designer. Mrs. de Mohrenschildt mentioned that he has known Charles for sometime and that he is a partner with him in a sisal business in Haiti.

8. Both Charles and de Mohrenschildt were anxious to arrange meetings with government officials in Washington. I mentioned to Charles that a meeting had been arranged for him at [illegible] and that a Mr. Green would meet him in the lobby. At [illegible] Mrs. [illegible], Mr. and Mrs. de Mohrenschildt and I departed and Charles remained in the lobby waiting for contact.

9. In the course of the luncheon conversation, Charles had mentioned to Mrs. [illegible] that he desired to see a Mr. [illegible], [illegible], to discuss [illegible] aid to Haiti. Later that afternoon Mrs. [illegible] called to state that she had called the State Department to pass along Charles' request. Mr. [illegible] ([illegible]) had called her back to pass on the Haitian Desk man's extreme displeasure that anyone in the United States Government should be in official contact with Charles. The desk man considered Charles to be close to the Duvalier Government, to have been involved in several shady financial dealings, and in general, to be an undesirable character. Mrs. [illegible] asked whether the Agency had any interest in Charles which would dictate further contact with Charles.

10. [illegible] checked with [illegible] Division and determined that as a result of the meeting with Charles, the [illegible] Haitian Desk had no further plans to contact him. I told Mrs. [illegible] that our interests seemed to have been satisfied and that I believed we should disengage ourselves as gracefully as possible.

11. [illegible] Nelson, [illegible] Coordinator, called on 7 May to inquire concerning our involvement in the Charles case. He stated that [illegible] had called him earlier that day to inform him that [illegible] had no direct interest in Charles and that in the matter as an intermediary of the [illegible] of General [illegible] who had passed the [illegible] to General [illegible]. [illegible] was concerned that due to the [illegible] to the Charles, [illegible] might [illegible] that [illegible] had interfered or had obstructed CIA contact with Charles. I explained to Nelson what had happened and he [illegible] called back to state that [illegible] was completely satisfied in the way the matter had been handled.

12. On 8 May Mrs. [illegible] telephoned to advise that the Operational Branch of [illegible] was discussing the Charles case with [illegible] to determine future course of action. She was still somewhat concerned over her own position in the case since Charles considered her to be the focal point in Washington. I intimated to her that the matter was one for [illegible], the State Department or the operational elements to handle and that we preferred to disengage ourselves. Mrs. [illegible] mentioned that a dispatch had been received to the effect that a cousin of Charles was prominently mentioned as a successor to [illegible] should the latter be overthrown. She was of the opinion that the US government should continue to "play ball" with Charles as a future asset in [illegible] affairs.

A. P. [illegible]

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